Government has been requested to identify the agency through which the programme is to be implemented. Under the proposed TREAD programme grant not exceeding one-third of the project cost can be made available to the NGOs recommended by the State Government and acceptable to the financial institutions. In the first phase of the programme, it is proposed to take up implementation in 9 cities namely; Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Cochin, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Gauhati. It is also proposed that initially in the first phase of the project about 5,000 women entrepreneurs in each centre will be selected for assistance under the programme.

Time Video Group

4246. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent probe into the dealings of the "Time Video Group" has revealed involvement of film stars and leading businessmen in Hawala transactions to meet their forex requirements during overseas trips;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During the course of searches of the premises connected with M/s. Times video and its partners, Income tax Department, Mumbai seized some documents relevant for investigations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. Investigations conducted by the Enforcement Directorate revealed some payments otherwise through authorised channels being carried on by the partners of M/s. Times Video, some film stars and businessmen.

(c) Action as envisaged under the laws is proposed to be taken.

Soyabean Extraction Units

4247. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Soyabean extraction units in the country and location thereof;

(b) whether the Government have examined the scope of the expansion of these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). On the basis of tentative information, about 155 solvent extraction plants have processed soyabeen seeds for recovery of oil. Of these, 74, 37 and 17 units are located in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively. The activity relating to setting up of solvent extraction plant is delicensed. And hence any entrepreneur can take investment decision on his own, depending on his commercial judgement.

Seizure of Narcotics

4248. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of the narcotics seized during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the number of persons arrested and convicted so far together with reasons for delay in finalising their cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per the information available details of narcotic drugs seized during the last three years, (upto November, 1996), are as given below :-

Year	Quantity of Durgs Seized (in KG) Opium	Hero in	Hashish	Metha-qualone	Ganja
1993	30111	1088	8238	15004	98867
1994	2256	1011	6992	45319	187896
1995	1339	1678	3629	20485	121873
1996 (upto Nov.)	2141	1054	5340	481	42406

(b) The number of persons arrested and convicted during the last three years, upto November, 1996, are as given below :-

Year	Number of Persons Arrested	Convicted
1993	13723	1488
1994	15452	1245
1995	14673	2456
1996 (Upto Nov.)	9183	2070

The delay in trial is generally due to a large number of cases pending before the criminal courts, which are competent to try cases under the NDPS Act.

Castism and Communalism in Politics

4249. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any effective measures have been taken by the Government to check the increasing incidents of castism and communalism in politics

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). Provisions already exist in the Representation of People Act, 1951 to prevent use of caste or religion for electoral gains.

[English]

Handicrafts and Gift Fair

4250. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three day Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair held at Bangalore in September 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the amount earned from sponsors and the amount of export orders received at the above fair;

(d) whether the above Fair was not open to the general public; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This fair was a buyer-seller's fair between exporters and importers of handicrafts. An amount of Rs.1.93 crores was spent for organising the fair at Bangalore.

(c) An amount of Rs.72.84 lakhs was received from the participants towards their participation charges, advertisement etc. About Rs.39.00 crores worth export orders were received in this fair.

(d) and (e). In the overall interest of exporters who earn valuable foreign exchange for the country and for providing an opportunity for them to negotiate under conducive conditions with buyers, the fair was open to invited buyers and exporters.

Loans by United bank of India in Northern Region

4251. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the loans disbursed by the United Bank of India in the Northern India region amounting to Rs.10 lakhs and above without any tangible security during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the loan amount given to SC/ ST applicants in this region against the total advance.

(c) the number of loan applications received from SC/ST applicants by the above bank directly or through Government agencies and the number of applications out of them sanctioned and rejected and the reasons for rejections;

(d) the time limit stipulated to sanction a loan of Rs.10 lakhs and whether the banks is maintaining the RBI time scheduled while disposing of the loan applications; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Dumping by Western Coalfields Limited

4252. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers could not harvest their crops due to over dumping by Western Coalfields Limited in the banks of Wardha river (Maharashtra) :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation being paid by the Western Coalfields Limited to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Per Capita Central Assistance

4253. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the per capita Central assistance to each State/ Union Territory during the last three Plans as also the estimates of Current Five Year Plan period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Information is being collected and will be furnished.

Recommendations of the World Bank on Financial Reforms

4254. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the recommendations made by the World Bank in its recent report on the financial sector reforms and capital market development in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.